(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to alleviate the grievances of these students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (d). Out of the 1858 candidates declared successful in All India Entrance Examination for admission to MD/MS/MDS/Diploma courses 1996, 1650 candidates appeared for counselling and were given allotment letters for admission by the Directorate General of Health Services in March, 1996.

[Translation]

Fishermen of Gujarat in Pak Jails

3798. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of fishermen of Gujarat apprehended and kept in jails by Pakistan Government from 1994-95 to March 1996;

(b) the reasons for their arrest;

(c) the number of fishermen died in Pak custody and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their repatriation and the time by which they are likely to return to India?

THE MINSTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) A list of fishermen in Pakistani custody said to belong to Gujarat has been sent by the Government of Gujarat. Some names in this list also figure in a list supplied by the Administration of Daman and Diu and said to be from Diu. Efforts are under way to clarify the position.

(b) Pakistan has informed that our fishermen were apprehended by them for violating Pakistani territorial laws.

(c) To the best of our information, no Indian fisherman has died in Pakistani custody during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(d) Government are actively pursuing with Pakistan a proposal to exchange fishermen in each other's custody. To this end, Government are in favour of holding technical level talks with Pakistan to address legal and administrative issues concerning the modalities of exchange.

[English]

Activities on Narmada Dam Project

3799. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received representations from several quarters regarding prevention of any kind of activities on Narmada Dam Project, which may cause displacement and other irreversible damage; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof, and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from some Non-Governmental Organisations and individuals. Resettlement & rehabilitation measures for project affected families as well as Environmental safeguards measures are under implementation by the concerned State Governments.

Senator Brown's Accusation

3800. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Senator Hank Brown wrote in an American Journal 'Roll Call' that India is responsible for arms race in South Asia;

(b) whether it is a fact that the senator had left New Delhi, without a meeting with External Affairs Minister, after his recent visit to the country; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Senator Hank Brown, in an article in the US Congressional Journal 'Roll Call', claimed that India's explosion of a nuclear device in 1974, touched off South Asia's nuclear arms race

(b) and (c). Senator Brown's request for a meeting with EAM could not be accommodated due to EAM's schedule. The Senator however, met with the Foreign Secretary during his stay in Delhi.

Action Against Principals of KVs

3801. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to retire Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas compulsorily, whose pass percentage has been below 10 per cent during the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;